

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor cable comprising:-

at least two strength components having respective tensile strength ratings, an optical transmission component, and at least one tensile strength member having a tensile strength rating disposed generally adjacent to at least one of the strength components, the strength member and one of the strength components defining a tensile strength rating ratio of about 0.1 to about 0.3, and a cable jacket generally surrounding the at least two strength components, the optical transmission component, and the at least one tensile strength member; and

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to an end of the cable, thereby connectorizing an optical waveguide, the optical waveguide being a portion of the optical transmission component, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing and a connector assembly, the crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and a connector housing.

2. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the crimp housing being a portion of a crimp assembly that includes a crimp band for holding the crimp housing together ~~the at least one plug connector comprising a crimp assembly and a connector assembly, wherein the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing and a crimp band and the connector assembly includes a connector housing and a ferrule.~~

3. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 2, ~~wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough and at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable~~

clamping portion securing one of the at least two ~~one~~ strength ~~component~~ components of the cable therein, ~~and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band.~~

4. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1 3, ~~the at least one cable clamping portion securing the at least two strength components of the cable~~ the two-half shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough for routing the at least one optical waveguide to the connector assembly, and the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band.

5. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1 3, one of the two half-shells having at least one rib for securing the at least one strength component.

6. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, 2, ~~wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough, at least one cable clamping portion, and a connector assembly clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable and the connector assembly clamping portion securing a portion of the connector assembly, the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band~~ the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud, the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180 degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

7. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud

having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

8. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 7, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

9. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 7, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of the cable jacket.

10. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 7, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

11. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

12. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes ~~profiles~~ for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

13. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, ~~further comprising a heat shrink tube for~~

~~weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of the cable jacket~~ the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band, wherein the crimp band secures the at least one tensile strength member.

14. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

15. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

16. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the cable having two or more plug connectors.

17. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 1, the optical transmission component further comprising a dry insert.

18. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor cable, comprising:

an optical transmission component;

at least two strength components, the at least two strength components disposed on opposite sides of the optical transmission component;

a plurality of tensile strength members, the plurality of tensile strength members being generally arranged about the optical transmission component and generally contacting the optical transmission component, the plurality of tensile strength members being fibrous tensile strength members that essentially lack anti-buckling strength;

a cable jacket, the cable jacket contacting at least a portion of the optical transmission component; and

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to an end of the cable, thereby connectorizing an optical waveguide, the optical waveguide being a portion of the optical transmission component, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing and a connector assembly, the crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and connector housing.

19. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, ~~the at least one plug connector further comprising a crimp assembly and a connector assembly, wherein the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing and a crimp band and the connector assembly includes a connector housing and a ferrule, wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough and at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable, and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band~~ the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band.

20. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, ~~the at least one plug connector further comprising a crimp assembly and a connector assembly, wherein the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing and a crimp band wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough, at least one cable clamping portion, and a connector assembly clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable and the connector assembly clamping portion securing a portion of the connector assembly,~~

and the two half shells being held together by the crimp band the
at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the
crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud,
the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary
receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180
degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for
keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

21. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

22. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 21, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

23. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 21, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of the cable jacket.

24. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 21, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

25. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

26. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes ~~profiles~~ for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

27. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of the cable jacket.

28. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

29. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

30. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the cable having two or more plug connectors.

31. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the optical transmission component further comprising a dry insert.

32. (currently amended) A preconnectorized outdoor cable, comprising:

an optical transmission component;

at least two strength components, the at least two strength components are disposed on opposite sides of the optical transmission component, ~~the at least two strength components generally contact the optical transmission component;~~

~~a plurality of tensile strength members, the plurality of tensile strength members generally contact the optical transmission component, the plurality of tensile strength members being fibrous tensile strength members that essentially lack anti-buckling strength;~~

~~a cable jacket, the cable jacket contacts at least a portion of the optical transmission component; and~~

at least one plug connector, the at least one plug connector being attached to an end of the cable, thereby connectorizing an optical waveguide, the optical waveguide being a portion of the optical transmission component, wherein the at least one plug connector includes a crimp housing and a connector assembly, the crimp housing having two half-shells that secure a portion of the connector assembly therebetween where the connector assembly includes a ferrule and connector housing.

33. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, ~~the at least one plug connector further comprising a crimp assembly and a connector assembly, wherein the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing and a crimp band and the connector assembly includes a connector housing and a ferrule, wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough and at least one cable clamping portion, the at least one cable clamping portion securing at least one strength component of the cable, and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band~~ the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud and the crimp housing is at least partially disposed within the shroud, the shroud having two fingers for mating with a complementary

receptacle, wherein the two fingers are disposed about 180 degrees apart and have different cross-sectional shapes for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

34. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the at least one plug connector further comprising a ~~crimp assembly and a connector assembly, wherein the crimp assembly includes a crimp housing and a crimp band wherein the crimp housing comprises two half-shells, the two half-shells having a longitudinal passageway therethrough,~~ at least one cable clamping portion and a crimp band, and ~~a connector assembly clamping portion,~~ the at least one cable clamping portion securing one of the at least two one strength components ~~component~~ of the cable therein and ~~the connector assembly clamping portion securing a portion of the connector assembly,~~ and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band.

35. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, and a coupling nut.

36. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 35, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides of the first end, the opening extending lengthwise from a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the shroud, wherein the ferrule is accessible within the first end of the shroud.

37. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 35, further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed about the second end of the shroud and a portion of the cable jacket.

38. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 35, further comprising an O-ring disposed on the shroud for weatherproofing the at least one plug connector.

39. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, wherein the shroud has at least one alignment indicia for indicating a mating orientation.

40. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the at least one plug connector further comprising a shroud having a first end and a second end, the shroud has a plurality of fingers for mating with a complementary receptacle, wherein at least two of the fingers have different cross-sectional shapes ~~profiles~~ for keying the plug connector with the complementary receptacle.

41. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, ~~further comprising a heat shrink tube for weatherproofing the preconnectorized outdoor cable, the heat shrink tube being disposed over a portion of the at least one plug connector and a portion of the cable jacket~~ the crimp housing being a portion of a crimp assembly that includes a crimp band for holding the crimp housing together.

42. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the at least one plug connector having a protective cap and a retention wire, wherein the protective cap is attached to the at least one plug connector by a retention wire.

43. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, a plurality of the components of the at least one plug connector being formed from a UV stabilized material.

44. (currently amended) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the cable having two or more plug connectors.

45. (original) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 32, the optical transmission component further comprising a dry insert.

46. (new) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the two half-shells being held together by a crimp band, wherein the crimp band secures one of the plurality of tensile strength members.

47. (new) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, further comprising at least tensile strength member and a crimp band, wherein the two half-shells are secured by the crimp band and the crimp band also secures the at least one tensile strength member.

48. (new) The preconnectorized outdoor cable of claim 18, the at least one plug connector further comprising at least one cable clamping portion and a crimp band, the at least one cable clamping portion securing one of the at least two strength components of the cable therein and the two half-shells being held together by the crimp band.